



Weekly News Update

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The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified news bulletins focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the EOD/C-IED community. To subscribe to this weekly publication and/or to receive additional IED-related reports, please request a RAPID login at <https://rapid.trancite.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.



Iraqi Army soldiers check weapons seized by Iraqi security forces in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

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1. [Attack: Kabul] **Interior Minister Survives Suicide Bomber Assassination Attempt** (Telegraph)

Sunday, 23 October 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/8844486/Afghan-interior-minister-survives-assassination-attempt.html>

The failed attempt on Bismullah Khan, who once fought against the Taliban, comes as the north of Afghanistan – an area over the past decade relatively insulated from the insurgency – has seen an uptick in violence.

The attacker attempted to detonate his explosives on a convoy of cars sent in advance of the minister's vehicle, just north of Kabul, perhaps thinking Mr Khan was inside, as he was being taken to visit the Panjshir valley, said spokesman Siddiq Siddiqui.

"I can confirm a failed assassination attempt on the minister, a suicide bomber was involved, no casualties," said Mr Siddiqui.

He said the minister had wanted to go to Panjshir – a stronghold of anti-Taliban resistance hit by its first suicide attack in the war last week – and a convoy of four cars had been sent in advance as a security measure. "In Sayed Khail (a district of Parwan province) a suicide attacker runs toward this convoy, but gets shot by bodyguards before being able to detonate himself," he said.

"The minister was in another convoy around 15 or 20 minutes behind the first convoy."

The spokesman said the attacker was in his early 20s and was injured in the shooting, and later died from his wounds.

Mr Khan is an ethnic Tajik former anti-Soviet commander who fought the Taliban alongside Afghanistan's northern hero Ahmad Shah Masood and was appointed to the interior ministry post in June last year.

He is a member of the Jamiat-e-Islami political party that was led by the former President Burhanuddin Rabbani, the chief broker for peace in the 10-year Afghan war until he was killed at his home in Kabul last month.

Police chief of Parwan Sher Ahmad Maladani said the bomber's body was in police custody and "we are trying to untie his explosives-filled vest from his body".

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2. [Security] **Taliban Boasts It Is Being Trained By Pakistan To Build IEDs** (Daily Telegraph)
Friday, 25 October 2011
http://www.vancouversun.com/news/canada-in-afghanistan/Taliban_boasts_being_trained_Pakistan/5603999/story.html#ixzz1c5GTyjPn

Pakistan is still running training camps to support and arm the Taliban across the border in Afghanistan despite official denials, insurgents have claimed.

Middle-ranking Taliban commanders have boasted that they have received "practical guidance" and training in bomb-making by officers from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI). One commander, Mullah Azizullah, told a BBC documentary: "They are all the ISI's men. They are the ones who run the training. First they train us about bombs, then they give us practical guidance. Their generals are everywhere. They are present during the training."

In an interview at a safe house in Kabul in June, he added: "The Taliban movement was created with the help of the ISI. It is like when a tree grows - one has to plant it and water it."

The claims come amid heightened tensions between Pakistan and the US following an attack by insurgents on the American embassy in Kabul last month, by a group that Adml Mike Mullen, the then chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, claimed was directed by the ISI.

Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state, visited Pakistan last week and urged the head of the ISI and the military to take action against militants operating on their soil, including the group behind the embassy attack, the Haqqani network.

Suspicions remain that Pakistan sees Afghanistan as a "strategic buffer" and is continuing to support insurgents so that it is ready for the withdrawal of British and US troops in three years' time. Pervez Musharraf, the former Pakistani president, told The Daily Telegraph last month that Pakistan had to "really think what will be the environment and fend for itself against all the exterior pressures, all the exterior manoeuvrings and political manoeuvrings against Pakistan".

A middle-ranking commander called Mullah Qaseem told the makers of Secret Pakistan, to be shown on BBC Two tonight: "For a fighter there are two important things - supplies and a place to hide. Pakistan plays a significant role. First they support us by providing a place to hide which is really important. Secondly they provide us with weapons."

Lt Col Tony Shaffer, who served with US Defence Intelligence between 1995 and 2006, said the ISI tipped off Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of al-Qaeda, during a bloody battle with Pakistani troops in Wana in 2004, allowing him to escape.

Col Richard Kemp, who worked at the Cabinet Office as head of intelligence on international terrorism between 2001 and 2006, said the ISI bore some responsibility for not preventing the July 7 attacks. "The ISI of course must take responsibility for the fact that some of these camps were still up and running, including perhaps the camp that was responsible for training the 7/7 attackers," Col Kemp said.

Pakistan continues to deny the reports with Gen Athar Abbas, director-general of Inter Services Public Relations, the military organisation within the country's defence forces, telling the BBC: "To say that these militant groups were being supported by the state with the organised camps in these areas Ö I think nothing could be further from the truth."

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3. [Attack: Kabul] **10 Killed In Kabul Fuel Truck Bomb Blast** (NDTV)

Wednesday, 26 October 2011

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/at-least-ten-killed-in-kabul-fuel-truck-bomb-blast-144313>

At least 10 people were killed and two dozen wounded on Wednesday when a fuel truck targeted by a bomb erupted in flames in northern Afghanistan, a provincial official said

A magnet bomb stuck on the side of the tanker blasted a hole in the fuel truck

"When people gathered around it to collect the pooling fuel, a bigger explosion took place," said Parwan provincial spokeswoman Roshna Khalid

It was not clear what caused the second explosion.

Ten people are dead and 25 others injured," said Parwan governor Basir Salangi, giving no further details.

But a Parwan hospital said it had received three dead and 35 injured, while Khalid earlier gave the toll at 50 dead or wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. In northwest Pakistan, Taliban and other Islamist militants routinely blow up NATO tankers carrying fuel from the Arabian Sea to US-led troops in landlocked Afghanistan.

Although violence has increased in northern Afghanistan, the region has been spared the worst fighting in the 10-year war, with most Taliban attacks concentrated on NATO and Afghan troops in the southern and eastern regions.

But there appears to have been a spike in attacks in the north since last month's assassination of government peace broker Burhanuddin Rabbani, a former president and key leader in the ethnic Tajik and Uzbek Northern Alliance

On Sunday, a suicide bomber targeted Interior Minister Bismullah Khan as he travelled through Parwan.

On October 15, four Taliban bombers blew themselves up at a US-run development base, killing two men in the first suicide attack to hit in the northern province of Panjshir.

Khan is an ethnic Tajik former anti-Soviet commander who fought the Taliban alongside Afghanistan's northern hero Ahmad Shah Masood and was appointed to the interior ministry post in June last year.

The Taliban, dominated by ethnic Pashtuns, have so far shown little willingness to talk peace despite various overtures by Western and Afghan brokers, 10 years since the US-led invasion ousted them from power.

International conferences due in Istanbul and Bonn, Germany, later this year are aimed at stepping up efforts to end the conflict as Western voters tire of the long war that has cost billions of dollars and thousands of lives.

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4. [Attack: Kandahar] **NATO Service Member Killed By Roadside Bomb** (AP)

Friday, 28 October 2011

http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2011/10/28/nato_service_member_killed_in_afghanistan/

A NATO service member was killed Friday in a roadside bombing in the same restive southern Afghan province where the U.S.-led alliance, a day earlier, repelled a coordinated Taliban attack on a U.S.-run civilian and military base.

The service member died as a result of an improvised explosive device in Kandahar province, the Taliban's traditional stronghold, NATO said in a statement that did not provide additional details. The death raises to 480 the number of coalition forces killed in Afghanistan so far this year.

Separately, the U.S.-led alliance said its troops, in tandem with Afghan police, were able to repel a Taliban attack on the camp in Kandahar that is home to NATO troops, including Americans, and a provincial reconstruction team.

NATO said one Afghan interpreter was killed in the attack that began at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, while one American civilian contractor and two Afghan security guards were injured. In addition, five NATO service members were slightly wounded, the alliance said.

The attack began as the Taliban launched an assault from a compound across from the camp, firing rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire, NATO said. Coalition forces returned fire while Afghan police, led by Kandahar provincial Police Chief Gen. Abdul Razzaq who was at the base at the time of the attack for a meeting, began clearing the compound.

Two car bombs went off as the Afghan police were clearing the compound, NATO said, but there were no injuries as a result of the explosions. The buildings had been rigged with improvised explosives devices and NATO forces, at the request of Afghan officials, "used precision munitions to reduce the threat," the coalition said.

On Thursday, Razzaq had said that two of the attackers were killed as forces cleared the compound.

Kandahar, and much of the south, had long been seen as a Taliban stronghold, but Afghan and coalition forces have made significant gains in the area and the insurgents have since shifted their operations further east and to some northern provinces.

NATO said the presence of car bombs at the site indicated the insurgents had a plan, which they were unable to execute, and that it had expected the Taliban to launch such an attack before the onset of winter, when the violence and attacks tend to abate.

In other incidents across the country, a civilian car struck a roadside bomb early Friday in Nangarhar province's Khogyani district, killing two men, a woman and a child, said district chief Mohammad Hassan.

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5. [Attack: Bugti] **Four Injured In Roadside Blast** (Daily Times)

Saturday, 22 October 2011

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C10%5C22%5Cstory_22-10-2011_pg7_11

Four persons belonging to the Peace Force were injured in a remote control bomb attack in Sui area of the Bugti Tribal Agency on Friday. According to official sources, a convoy of Peace Force Commander Bhai Khan Bugti was patrolling the RD 109 area of Sui, the bordering area of Sindh and Balochistan, when it was hit by a remote-controlled blast. Resultantly, four persons of the force were injured and a vehicle was destroyed. "It was the fourth attack on Commander Bhai Khan Bugti, but luckily he remained safe," sources said. Law enforcement agencies rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area and the injured were taken to the PPL Hospital in Sui for treatment. The injured were identified as Noor Mohammad, Deen Khan, Mir Mohammad, Nawab Deen.

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6. [Attack: Balochistan] **Roadside Blast Injures 2 Troops** (Press TV)

Saturday, 22 October 2011

<http://presstv.com/detail/206016.html>

A roadside bomb blast has wounded at least two Pakistani troops in the country's troubled southwestern province of Balochistan, Press TV reports.

This comes after their vehicle struck the roadside bomb while conducting a patrol in an area of Quetta, provincial capital of the Balochistan Province, a Press TV correspondent reported on Saturday.

The wounded soldiers have been taken to a local hospital and are said to be in critical condition.

Security forces have cordoned the area off and are currently investigating the incident.

Pakistan's Balochistan province has been grappling with insurgency over the past few years.

Pakistan's security landscape has been marred by growing acts of militancy and violence in recent years.

Despite an offensive by the Pakistani government against pro-Taliban militants, they have spread their influence to various regions, killing people and security forces on an almost daily basis.

Pakistan has lost more than 35,000 people in militant attacks and bomb explosions since 2007, according to the Associated Press. Millions more have been displaced by violence and militancy across the country.

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7. [Attack: Lower Dir] **Four Killed In Lower Dir By Remote Control Bomb Blast** (Nawaiwaqt)
Tuesday, 25 October 2011
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Islamabad/25-Oct-2011/Four-killed-in-Lower-Dir-bomb-blast>

Four people were killed in remote-controlled bomb attack in Lower Dir, police said. A remote-controlled bomb device, planted in a vehicle traveling from Ghawara Banda to Samar Bagh, exploded Tuesday killing all four persons in the vehicle. Police cordoned off the area after the incident and detained several persons in a search operation.

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8. [Attack: Swabi] **Broken Peace: Month Of Calm Broken As Bomb Blast Injures 12** (Tribune)
Sunday, 16 October 2011
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/282359/explosion-in-peshawar-cloth-market-4-injured/>

At least 12 people, including a woman and two children, were injured in a bomb blast in the Shah Afzal Market on Pajjagi Road here on Wednesday.

Over one kilogram of explosive material was used in the attack, which took place inside a cosmetics shop in a cloth market, according to Peshawar Police Spokesperson Nisar Ahmed Khan. Nearby shops were also damaged in the explosion.

Khan said that the owner of the shop, Kashif, has charged two persons for carrying out the attack due to personal enmity. The official added that he was not sure about the nature of the blast.

No militant organisation claimed responsibility for the attack till the filing of this report. The locality has been previously targeted by militants as well, who blew up schools and shrines.

Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) officials said that the explosives may have been triggered by a remote control. However, they did not find any traces of the system in the rubble.

The injured were admitted to the Lady Reading Hospital. Doctors at the hospital said the injured are being provided emergency medical services.

Shah Afzal Market, situated on Pajjagi Road, lies within the limits of Mathra police, who had not filed an FIR on the incident till last reports came in.

Earlier in the day, before the blast, City police chief Imtiaz Altaf claimed that normalcy had returned to the city. However, at the same time, he said that militancy in Peshawar is not completely over and he cannot say with certainty that there will be no more blasts.

The blast broke a month-long peace in Peshawar. The last attack in Peshawar took place on September 19 in Nishtarabad CD Market, where six persons were killed and more than 30 injured. The market was targeted with a remote-controlled bomb, which employed eight to 10 kilograms of explosives, according to BDU officials.

Similarly, on August 11, a handcart bomb blast, followed by a suicide blast targeting the police killed at least seven people besides injuring 42 others. Five of those killed were reported to be police personnel in the suicide bombing that took place in the Lahori Gate area of the city.

In addition to that, at least 40 people were killed and over 100 including television journalists and a senior police officer were injured when two blasts ripped through Khyber Super Market in the garrison area of the city on June 11.

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9. [Attack: Baghdad] **4 Wounded, Including 2 Cops, In Baghdad Blast** (Aswat Al-Iraq)

Sunday, 23 October 2011

http://en.aswatiraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145371&l=1

At least 4 persons, including 2 policemen, have been injured in an explosive charge blast in central Baghdad on Sunday, a Baghdad security source reported.

"An explosive charge blew up on Sunday morning in central Baghdad's al-Nahda district, wounding 2 policemen and 2 civilians, and causing damage to a number of cars close to the venue of the blast," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

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10. [Attack: Baghdad] **11 Injured In Attacks Against Baghdad Traffic Police Patrols** (Aswat Al-Iraq)
Tuesday, 24 October 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145381&l=1

Five traffic policemen and six civilians have been injured in attacks against two traffic police patrols, the 4th of its kind over the past few hours, a Baghdad security source reported on Monday.

"An explosive charge blew up against a traffic police patrol in east Baghdad's al-Sadr city, wounding 3 patrol men and 2 civilians," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said a clash took place between traffic policemen and unknown armed men close to Sarrafiya bridge in central Baghdad, killing 2 civilians and 2 traffic policemen, along with injuring 6 others, including 4 traffic policemen and 2 civilians.

"Another explosion took place against a traffic policemen in al-Nahda area in central Baghdad, injuring 4 civilians and 2 traffic policemen, who were drive to a nearby hospital for treatment," he added.

In another incident, an explosive charge blew up targeting a traffic policemen in west Baghdad's Iskan district, killing a civilian and wounding 3 others, whilst a suicide bomber, driving a booby-trapped car, attacked a group of citizens at the same place of the said blast, but it blew off before his arrival to the area, raising the number of injured people to seven, he concluded.

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11. [Attack: Mosul] **Separate Car Bomb Blasts Have Killed 5, Wounded 18 People** (AP)

Wednesday, 26 October 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/iraqi-officials-say-separate-car-bomb-blasts-have-killed-5-wounded-18-people-in-northern-city/2011/10/26/gIQALH26HM_story.html

Iraqi officials say two car bombs have exploded in the northern city of Mosul, killing five people and wounding 18.

An army officer says the first explosion on Wednesday occurred at about 8:30 a.m. when a parked car bomb went off next to an army patrol, killing three soldiers and wounding three civilians.

He says the second blast came fifteen minutes later, when another parked car bomb exploded in a nearby neighborhood. That explosion killed two civilians and wounded 15. The target was unclear.

A police officer and a doctor confirmed the causality figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media.

Mosul, 225 miles (360 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, has for years been a hub for al-Qaida in Iraq.

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12. [Attack: Babel] **Four People Killed, 5 Injured In Attack On House In Babel** (Aswat Al-Iraq)
Wednesday, 26 October 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145408&l=1

A girl and her mother have been killed, along with 2 armed men and 5 others injured in different security incidents in Hilla city, the center of south Iraq's Babel Province on Wednesday, a Babel security source reported.

"A group of armed men have booby-trapped a house in northeast Hilla city, the center of Babel Province, that blew off, killing a women and her daughter, and wounding the husband and his 3 children, along with destroying the house completely," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency on Wednesday.

In another incident, 2 armed men were killed when a bomb blew off inside their car in Iskandariya township, 50 km to the north of Hilla, the security source said, adding that the police have found 2 pistols, fixed with silencers and remote mobile devices inside the car.

In another incident, the security source reported that 2 unknown gunmen have opened fire on the Mukhtar of Police district in Musayab township, 45 km to the north of Hilla, seriously injuring the man, who was driven to hospital for treatment.

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13. [Attack: Mosul] **Two Civilians Killed, 15 Injured In Mosul Blasts** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Wednesday, 26 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145409&l=1

Two civilians have been killed and 15 others injured in 2 booby-trapped car and explosive charge blasts in Mosul, the center of north Iraq's Ninewa Province on Wednesday, a security source reported.

"A booby-trapped car blew off in Suez district and another car blew off in al-Zihour district, along with an explosive charge blast in Dargazaliya district, all in Mosul city on Wednesday, killing 2 civilians and wounding 15 others," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

Mosul, the center of Ninewa Province, is 405 km to the north of Baghdad.

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14. [Attack: Baghdad] **3 Civilians Injured In Central Baghdad's Saadoun Street** (Aswat al-Iraq)
Wednesday, 26 October 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145411&l=1

Three civilians have been injured in an explosive charge blast in central Baghdad's Saadoun Street on Wednesday, a security source reported.

"An explosive charge blew up on the roadside, close to a restaurant in central Baghdad's Saadoun Street, wounding 3 civilians," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

Noteworthy is that Baghdad and a number of other Iraqi cities have witnessed several terrorist attacks over the past 24 hours, killing and wounding dozens of citizens.

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15. [Attack: Babel] **Sahwa (Awakening) Element Killed, 2 Others Injured In Babel** (Aswat Al-Iraq)

Wednesday, 26 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145415&l=1

An element of the pro-government al-Sahwa (Awakening) Force has been killed and two others were injured in an explosive charge blast against their vehicle north of Hilla, the center of south Iraq's Babel Province on Wednesday, a Babel police source reported.

"An explosive charge blew off today (Wednesday) against a vehicle, carrying al-Sahwa (Awakening) elements in Iskandariya township, 50 km to the north of Hilla city, killing one of them and wounding 2 others," the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

Hilla, the center of Babel Province, is 100 km to the south of Baghdad.

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16. [Attack: Baghdad] **Sticky Bomb Exploded In Central Baghdad** (Aswat Al-Iraq)
Wednesday, 26 October 2011
http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=132962

A sticky bomb exploded in a car on a crowded street in Baya' area, which led to a number of casualties, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the car was completely damaged.

No other information was given.

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17. [Security: Bulgaria] **32 Dead In Baghdad's Twin Bombings** (AP)

Thursday, 27 October 2011

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-bomb-explosion-baghdad-kills-14826939>

The death toll from a twin bombing in a Shiite neighborhood in Baghdad rose on Friday to 32 — the worst violence to hit Iraq since President Barack Obama last week said all American forces would leave the country by the end of this year.

The two blasts, which took place Thursday evening at a music store, wounded 71 other people, police and health officials said. First one bomb went off and then, minutes later, another bomb exploded, targeting rescue workers and onlookers who had arrived after the first blast.

The officials said the death toll rose overnight after some of the more seriously wounded died. The wounded had been taken to different hospitals, they said, and so it took time for officials to get an accurate death toll.

Among the dead were eight security officers, including an army lieutenant colonel, four women and at least eight children, the officials said. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Many Iraqis fear violence will increase when the U.S. troops leave the country. Insurgents have for months sought to exploit continued instability and security gaps that Iraqi forces have been unable to close.

"I was on my motorbike with a delivery to a restaurant when the first bomb exploded," said Maytham Abdul-Karim, 32, the owner of a nearby kiosk selling pickles and yogurt. "The sound was very powerful. I stopped. I saw smoke coming from the site. I heard policemen calling on people to keep a distance out of fear of another bomb explosion."

Iraqis have lived through years of violence and are well aware of the danger that one explosion can be followed by another, more powerful blast. Despite that knowledge, many still run to the scene to help.

After the first explosion Thursday night, some of Abdul-Karim's friends ran from the restaurant they were eating to the blast site.

"Then the second bomb exploded. Two of them have died for sure, but I do not know the fate of the others. I went to the hospital they were taken to, but I was not allowed to get in because of the huge crowd of people asking for their loved ones," he said.

Violence has dropped dramatically across Iraq since just a few years ago, when sectarian violence brought the nation to the brink of civil war. But deadly bombings and attacks still happen nearly everyday.

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18. [Security: Michigan, US] **Michigan Man Faces Trial On Explosives Charges** (Mining Journal)
Saturday, 22 October 2011
<http://www.dailypress.net/page/content.detail/id/533007/Man-faces-trial-on-explosives-charges.html?nav=5003>

A Sault Ste. Marie man is scheduled to stand trial in federal court in December on six felony charges related to his alleged possession of more than 4,000 pounds of explosives.

John Francis Lechner, 64, is scheduled for a jury trial before U.S. District Court Judge R. Allan Edgar at 9 a.m. Dec. 12 in Marquette. Lechner, who entered his not guilty pleas last week, is lodged in the Marquette County Jail awaiting an initial pre-trial hearing set for 3 p.m. Nov. 14.

In a recent court proceeding, a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives testified that through the help of a confidential informant who had worn a recording device, he was able to locate a mixture of about 4,150 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, which had allegedly been transported by Lechner.

Court testimony revealed there was enough of the blasting agent, typically used in mining and other commercial operations, to produce an explosion equal to or exceeding that of the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Okla., that killed 168 people.

According to court records, the informant called in a tip to the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department, stating that Lechner had asked for help moving a large quantity of explosives.

On Sept. 20, the informant was equipped with a wire and allegedly helped Lechner as he moved the explosives from a property he owned on Blalock Road in Sault Ste. Marie to a shed on the informant's property in Dafter.

The ATF agent obtained permission to search the informant's property and located 83 50-pound bags of the mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, which is commonly referred to as ANFO, sitting on pallets in the shed, according to court records. The following day, a search at the home of Lechner's mother revealed 36 blasting caps, 64 boosters and 2,000 feet of detonator cord. A subsequent search at Lechner's property on Blalock revealed 12 additional blasting caps.

An affidavit stated the informant had asked Lechner about his plans for the explosives.

"When the government gets taken over," Lechner allegedly said. "We will be mercenaries."

Federal officials said Lechner never fully completed the proper permits necessary through the ATF to legally purchase and possess the ANFO.

Also of consequence could be two trips that Lechner allegedly took to Cuba in 2008. The ATF agent said Lechner took a private jet to Toronto in March of that year. From there, he boarded a plane to Cuba. Nine months later, Lechner allegedly drove to Toronto before boarding a similar flight to Cuba. In at least one instance, Lechner told border officials that he was heading to Toronto to watch a sporting event, according to the ATF agent.

The federal charges and allegations against Lechner, which were all said to have occurred in Chippewa County this year, included:

- Count 1: Possession of explosives while under indictment. From Aug. 24 to Sept. 21, it is alleged that Lechner - while under indictment for one or more crimes punishable by imprisonment of a term exceeding

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one year - possessed blasting caps, detonating cord and detonators, which had been shipped or transported in interstate commerce. Punishable by not more than 10 years in prison.

- Count 2: Transportation of explosive materials. On Sept. 20, Lechner allegedly knowingly transported, or caused to be transported, a mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, while being a person other than a licensee or permittee. Punishable by not more than 10 years in prison.

- Count 3: Distribution of explosive materials. On Sept. 20, Lechner allegedly knowingly distributed about 4,150 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, while being a person other than a licensee or permittee. Punishable by not more than 10 years in prison.

- Count 4: Distribution of explosive materials to a convicted felon. On Sept. 20, Lechner allegedly knowingly distributed about 4,150 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil to an individual who had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment of more than one year. Punishable by not more than 10 years in prison.

- Count 5: Improper storage of explosive materials. On Sept. 20 to Sept. 21, Lechner allegedly stored blasting caps, detonating cord, detonators and about 4,150 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil not in conformity with regulations put into effect by the U.S. attorney general. Punishable by not more than one year in prison.

- Count 6: False statement to law enforcement. On Sept. 8, Lechner knowingly and willfully made a materially false statement to an ATF agent that he did not have explosives and explosive materials and that he no longer possessed a mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil. Punishable by not more than five years in prison.

If Lechner is convicted of any of the first five counts listed in the indictment, he will forfeit to the government the explosive materials involved, or intended to be used, in those crimes.

In addition to the six federal counts, Lechner was also charged in Chippewa County with three felonies, including: false report of a felony; false pretenses, \$1,000 or more but less than \$20,000; and assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer. Lechner was also being charged as a habitual offender.

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19. [Attack: Philippines] **Bomb Blast Hits School In Zamboanga Del Sur** (Xinhua)

Saturday, 22 October 2011

<http://www.philstar.com/nation/article.aspx?publicationscategoryid=200&articleid=740163>

An improvised bomb exploded inside the compound of a school in Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur, Friday night.

Senior Superintendent Jose Bayani Gucela said the blast took place at the compound of an elementary school around 7 p.m.

Gucela said a classroom was damaged by the blast, but no one was hurt.

He said investigators found fragments of dynamite sticks at the site of the explosion, and an investigation as to the motive and suspects behind the incident is underway

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20. [Attack: Gaza] **PRC Leader Survives Car Bomb Attack** (Ma'an)

Sunday, 23 October 2011

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=431362>

Popular Resistance Committees leader Ayman al-Shashniya survived a car bombing outside his Gaza home on Friday night, a spokesman of the movement said.

Al-Shashniya was lightly injured when an explosive device planted in his parked car was set off around 11 p.m. damaging the house with him inside, spokesman Abu Mujahed said.

A bomb squad from the Gaza-based government is investigating the blast, Abu Mujahed added.

Al-Shashniya had no known enemies apart from Israel, Abu Majahed said.

The PRC was one of the groups which helped capture an Israeli soldier who was traded this week in exchange for 1,027 Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

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21. [Attack: Somalia] **Suicide Bomber Wounds 2 Au Peacekeepers** (AP)

Monday, 23 October 2011

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/10/23/4000401/somalia-suicide-bomber-wounds.html#ixzz1c5jHfjja>

An African Union official says that a suicide bomber has blown himself up in Somalia's capital, wounding two AU peacekeepers.

Biyereke Floribert, a spokesman for African Union peacekeepers, said Sunday that the bomber ran after a convoy of AU peacekeepers near the Tribunka square in Mogadishu before detonating the explosives.

Floribert blamed the attack on al-Shabab, an al-Qaida-linked group that is waging an insurgency against Somalia's weak government.

Earlier this month al-Shabab militants blew up a truck bomb in the capital, killing more than 100 people in their deadliest single explosion.

African Union peacekeepers from Burundi and Uganda are supporting Somali forces in their battle against the militants.

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22. [Attack: Somalia] **Roadside Bomb Attack In Mogadishu Kills 1, Injuries 3** (Mareeg)
Sunday, 23 October 2011
<http://www.mareeg.com/fidsan.php?sid=21549>

One dead and 3 others injured all women after armed vehicles of the African union peacekeeping forces passing through the capital was targeted with land mine explosion by the rebel group of Shabab today, reports said.

The explosion was said to be land mine managed by remote control was targeted to the AU forces going in between Former Milk Industry and hospital of national army killing one man and injuring 3 women around there, eyewitness said.

Officials of Somali transitional federal government explained the blast to be failed suicide attack against Amisom but killed the bomber himself alone, reports said.

Rebel group of Shabab claimed the responsibility of the attack against AU armed vehicles disproving how T.F.G officials said the statement to a suicide but said that it was land mine executed especial group for explosion of Shabab.

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23. [Attack: Philippines] **Bomb Blast Destroys Zambo Sur School** (Sun Star)

Sunday, 23 October 2011

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/zamboanga/local-news/2011/10/23/blast-destroys-zambo-sur-school-186588>

Two classrooms were damaged after a bomb exploded inside a school in Zamboanga del Sur province Friday night, a top police official said.

Zamboanga del Sur police director Jose Bayani Gucela said the improvised bomb explosion took place around 9:19 p.m. Friday inside the campus of Margosatubig Pilot Training School in Poblacion village.

Have something to report? Tell us in text, photos or videos.

Gucela said no casualty was reported in the explosion except for the minor damage it caused at the school's two classrooms.

Investigation is being conducted to determine what type of bomb was used, he said.

Gucela ordered to strengthen security to avert similar incidents in the future.

A bomb scare also hit Zamboanga City on Friday, sending people running for safety after an abandoned cardboard box was found along Governor Lim Avenue at downtown.

Zamboanga City police director Edwin de Ocampo said the cardboard box, which was placed in front of a commercial establishment, was discovered by the security personnel.

De Ocampo said explosive ordnance demolition (EOD) personnel rushed to the area and found out that the cardboard box's content was not a bomb but sand and an old mobile phone.

The explosion and the bomb scare incidents happened a day after two explosions hit two towns in Zamboanga del Sur's neighboring province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

The first explosion took place around 8 p.m. Thursday at a vacant lot owned by Estila Alquitas near the wharf of Malangas town.

The second explosion occurred around 11:20 p.m. near the bus terminal of Imelda town.

There was no reported casualty on both incidents.

De Ocampo ordered his men to conduct surprise checkpoints and inspections on all points of entry leading to Zamboanga City.

He also ordered to intensify intelligence operations to be on the lookout of lawless elements, including Abu Sayyaf bandits who could have slipped into the city to carry out atrocities.

De Ocampo said they have tapped the assistance of this city's 98 barangay chiefs, as well as the military's Task Force Zamboanga (TFZ), to help guard the city from possible attacks by lawless elements.

The TFZ is the maneuvering force of the Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City.

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24. [Attack: Nigeria] **Gunmen Attack And Bomb A Police Station And Two Banks, Killing 2 Including A Policeman** (AFP)

Sunday, 23 October 2011

<http://www.timesofoman.com/innercat.asp?detail=51084>

Gunmen in northern Nigeria bombed a police station and two banks while killing two people, including a policeman, in an overnight attack in northern Nigeria's Kaduna State, police and residents said Sunday.

The attackers razed the police station and badly damaged the banks in the town of Saminaka, they said.

"We received report of attack on a divisional police station and two banks in Saminaka this morning by unknown gunmen," Kaduna state police commissioner Ballah Nasarawa said.

"We are yet to get a detailed picture of the situation but the damage to the police station and the banks was serious", he added.

Residents said the attackers who were chanting Allahu Akbar (God is Great) threw explosives and fired shots during the one hour attack.

"I was awake and at 2:53 this morning I heard loud explosions and gunshots followed by shouts of Allahu Akbar which rang all over the town", resident Haruna Tela said.

"When the attackers left I ventured out of my house along with other people and found the police station on fire with a charred body of a police inspector lying just outside," Tela said.

He said a security guard in one of the banks was also shot dead by the attackers who also robbed the banks.

"Sections of bullet-riddled walls of the banks were blown off by the attackers who broke into the vault and emptied them," he added.

No group has claimed responsibility for the incident, but the radical Islamist Boko Haram sect has been blamed for series of bomb and gun attacks in parts of Nigeria in recent months.

The sect also claimed responsibility for the August 26 bomb blast at UN headquarters in Abuja that killed at least 23 people.

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25. [Attack: Philippines] **Bus Passenger Wounded In Roadside Bombing In Mindanao** (Mindanao Examiner)

Monday, 24 October 2011

http://www.mindanaoexaminer.com/news.php?news_id=20111023230413

A roadside bomb explosion on Monday hit a commuter bus and wounding one person in fresh attack in the restive region of Mindanao in the southern Philippines, police said. Police said the attack occurred shortly before 7 a.m. in the town of Kabacan in North Cotabato. "One passenger was wounded in the blast that also damaged the bus," said Director Felicisimo Khu, head of the Integrated Police Operations in Western Mindanao.

He said a mortar bomb rigged to a cell phone which triggered detonation was used in the attack. "It was, I think, the 6th roadside bombings that targeted passenger buses in North Cotabato and extortion could be the motive behind these attacks," Khu said.

The blast occurred a day after suspected Muslim rebels ambushed a military convoy in the town of Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte province that killed two soldiers and wounded for others.

The military also blamed the rebels for the spate of attacks in Zamboanga Sibugay last week that left 8 soldiers and policemen dead. And 19 soldiers were also slain last week by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front fighters in fierce battle in Basilan province after troops were sent on a test mission to a rebel stronghold in the town of Al-Barka to arrest a rebel leader Dan Asnawi who is accused as behind the series of kidnappings for ransom.

The MILF, the country's largest Muslim rebel group which is currently negotiating peace with Manila, accused the military of breaking a fragile truce when it ordered troops inside a guerilla base to arrest Asnawi on false charges.

The series of attacks sparked widespread calls from politicians and former President Joseph Estrada for an all-out war against the MILF. British Ambassador to Manila Stephen Lillie on Monday expressed serious concern about the recent spate of ambushes in Mindanao, but said he is supporting President Benigno Aquino's rejection of an "all-out war policy" against the MILF following last week's violent attacks in Basilan and Zamboanga Sibugay.

"I am seriously concerned by the reports of ambushes by MILF members in different parts of Mindanao over the past week. But meeting violence with violence will not solve the conflict in the southern Philippines."

"On the contrary, it is only likely to lead to a downward spiral of killing, with untold misery and suffering for innocent civilians. The last time violence broke out on a wide scale, some 600,000 people were forced to flee their homes. The people of the southern Philippines deserve better than that," Lillie said.

He said Aquino's refusal to launch full-scale military action against the MILF demonstrated his commitment to the road of peace and said the onus is now on the MILF leadership to show its hand. "I think that the MILF need to reassure public and political opinion that they too remain committed. The current spate of ambushes must stop," he said.

"Their grief is heart-felt and understandable, and so is the anger of many Filipinos. But I firmly believe that the President is right to reject calls for all-out war. At the end of the day, the way forward must be via the negotiating table and the continuation of peace talks," Lillie said, but he was quick to say that for this to happen, the violence must stop. The United Kingdom is one of four governments in the International Contact Group supporting the peace talks. The other countries are Turkey, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

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26. [Attack: Nigeria] **Roadside Bomb Hits Nigerian Patrol** (AFP)

Monday, 24 October 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hziWaw8zf8irtyNQLTudXYjklQtQ?docId=CN.G.7a1f679ced5b40465c22d8e765ab2046.8b1>

A roadside bomb hit a military patrol vehicle Sunday in the troubled northeastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri where attacks by suspected Islamists have killed dozens, residents said.

The blast occurred at around 6:00 pm (1700 GMT) in the Zinnari area of the city, which has been routinely targeted by the radical Boko Haram sect, they said.

"The military patrol van was passing along the street when it drove over a bomb which exploded with a thunderous blast and badly damaged the vehicle," Maiduguri trader Salisu Abubakar told AFP.

He said the blast was followed by gunshots from the attackers, causing panic as people ran for cover.

Abubakar could not say if anyone was hurt following the explosion.

Another resident, Babagana Dan-damasak said the vehicle "was mangled" from the explosion.

"It was evident that the bomb was planted on its path. Soldiers who came in trucks and vans surrounded the area and started a house-to-house search for the attackers," he added.

The military could not immediately confirm the incident.

Bomb and gun attacks blamed on Boko Haram, an extremist sect that sprung up in 2004, have been regular in some parts of the north, particularly Maiduguri in recent months.

In 2009, Boko Haram launched a short-lived armed uprising in a doomed bid to establish an Islamic state.

Although the rebellion was crushed in a military assault that killed hundreds, mostly sect members, it failed to deter further attacks.

In recent months the attacks have escalated.

The sect has claimed responsibility for the August 26 bomb blast at UN headquarters in Abuja that killed at least 24 people.

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27. [Attack: Syria] **Second Grenade Attack Hits Kenya Capital** (Sky News)
Monday, 24 October 2011
<http://news.sky.com/home/world-news/article/16094949>

A second grenade attack has occurred in Nairobi, two days after the US warned of an impending terror blitz in the Kenyan capital.

At least one person died and eight were injured after the blast at a crowded bus stop during the rush hour on Monday evening.

Peter Ndungu Kiarie, 35, said he was in his vehicle when he heard the second explosion and saw people rushing toward him.

"I assisted some until an ambulance came," he said.

Many people were wounded in the legs, he said, suggesting the explosive device was lying on the ground.

The first blast occurred at 1.15am on Monday morning when a grenade exploded inside a working class Nairobi bar. A dozen people suffered horrific burns and shrapnel wounds in the nightclub attack, three seriously.

Witnesses said they saw a man trying to enter the Nairobi club before hurling the explosive device inside the front door. Victims were rushed to hospital and later told of the panic inside the nightclub when the "loud explosion" happened.

Kevin Otieno described the incident as "hell" and said he was "lucky to be alive". It was so loud and immediately I started feeling pain and blood splashing at me and we were just trying to get out.

Another bar-goer Jonah Mwangi, who is recovering in hospital, said: "It was so loud and immediately I started feeling pain and blood splashing at me and we were just trying to get out."

Police have linked the bomb blast to the militant Somali group, al Shabaab, who last week warned of reprisal attacks in Kenya after troops were sent over the border.

Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere told a news conference that the authorities could not yet name suspects from the first blast.

No group has admitted being behind the incident.

Nairobi soldiers crossed the Somali border last week to hunt the al Qaeda-linked fighters it blames for a wave of kidnappings of foreigners, including a British tourist, on Kenyan soil.

They claim the kidnappings have threatened the country's multi-million dollar tourism industry.

Al Shabaab has denied holding foreigners captive and has repeatedly threatened major reprisals if Kenyan troops did not withdraw.

Last week, six people were killed in a suicide attack in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, near a meeting involving two Kenyan ministers.

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28. [Attack: Lebanon] **Eight Injured In Bomb Blast, Bomb Hidden In Rubbish Container** (AFP)

Tuesday, 25 October 2011

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/eight-injured-in-lebanon-bomb-blast-20111025-1mh0k.html>

A bomb placed in a rubbish container at the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon exploded on Monday, leaving eight people injured, a Palestinian security official told AFP.

"An explosion took place in the Ain al-Helweh camp around 9:30pm (0530 Tuesday AEDT), injuring eight people, one of who was gravely injured," said Maher Chabayta, a representative of Fatah -- Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's movement -- in the camp.

The seriously injured person was the garbage man, he added.

Advertisement: Story continues below

Ain al-Helweh in southern Lebanon is home to about 50,000 refugees and is known to harbour extremists and fugitives.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) estimates that some 425,000 Palestinian refugees are living in Lebanon, a country with a population of four million.

Others, however, estimate the number to be closer to 250,00.

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29. [Attack: Kenya] **Grenade Attack At Nairobi Bus Stop Kills 1 And Injures 8** (Guardian)
Monday, 24 October 2011
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/24/explosion-nairobi-bus-stop-kenya?newsfeed=true>

At least one person has died in a grenade attack at a bus stop in Nairobi, hours after a similar attack at a bar in the Kenyan capital.

The second blast, at a crowded bus stop in a working-class neighbourhood, was reported by the Kenyan Red Cross. It said on Twitter that one person had been killed and another eight had been taken to Kenyatta national hospital.

Njoroge Ndirangu, Nairobi's provincial commissioner, said the grenade blast wounded 18 people, eight critically.

Elias Ndungu, who witnessed the attack told Reuters: "There was an explosion but I thought it was a tyre burst. When I looked around I saw about eight or nine bodies. One was bleeding from his neck. He clearly had breathing problems."

Peter Ndungu Kiarie, 35, said he heard the second explosion while in his car and saw people rushing toward him. Many people were wounded in the legs, he said.

The attacks, which have not yet been linked, have raised fears of reprisals from Islamist groups for Kenya's support in fighting al-Shabaab Islamists in neighbouring Somalia.

Somali Islamist rebels warned last week that they would bring the "flames of war" to Nairobi after Kenyan forces mounted a cross-border land and air assault. The US embassy in Kenya also warned two days ago of an imminent attack.

The Kenyan military operation, which began in mid-October, follows the kidnap of four European women by Somali gunmen and has seen incursions into Somalia by Kenyan troops. France said on Monday that it would also assist the Kenyan operation by ferrying in supplies.

Kenyan police said they were investigating the Nairobi blasts but there is debate over who may be responsible.

Mathew Iteere, the Kenyan police commissioner, said there was no firm link between the two blasts and Somalia's al-Shabaab rebels, who have been linked to al-Qaida and have carried out suicide bomb attacks in the Somali capital Mogadishu.

One Nairobi-based security official told the Associated Press that while al-Shabaab had bombing "down to a fine art", throwing grenades was not their style.

It is not the first time that grenades have been used on targets in downtown Nairobi. A similar grenade was used in an attack which killed one person at a bus station in December 2010. Six people were also killed in a grenade attack at a political rally in June 2010.

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30. [Attack: India] **Bomb Blast In Haflong, Vehicle Damaged** (TNN)

Tuesday, 25 October 2011

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-10-25/guwahati/30319627_1_bomb-blast-haflong-dima-hasao

Suspected militants triggered a bomb blast inside the office complex of NC Hills Autonomous Council in Haflong, the headquarters of the Dima Hasao district, early on Monday. A police officer said the explosive was kept under an empty bus, which was parked inside the office complex. The vehicle is owned by the council.

"The bomb went off at 4 am. The bus was damaged due to the impact of the explosion," added the officer. However, no one was injured in the incident. Soon after the incident, police and Army personnel rushed to the spot. A hunt is on to nab the miscreants.

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31. [Security: US] **US Charges Singaporeans For Selling Iran Bomb Parts** (AFP)
Wednesday, 26 October 2011
http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_singapore/view/1161742/1/.html

The United States charged four Singaporeans and an Iranian on Tuesday with illegally exporting US-made radio equipment to Iran that ended up in roadside bombs targeting coalition forces in Iraq.

The United States has requested the extradition of the Singaporeans, who were arrested on Monday in Singapore, but the Iranian is still at large and lives in Iran, the Justice Department said.

Three Singapore-based companies and an Iranian company were also charged in the indictment, which accuses Iranian national Hossein Larijani of masterminding the illegal export of 6,000 radio frequency modules from a Minnesota-based company to Iran.

The modules have encryption capabilities and a range that allows them to transmit data wirelessly as far as 40 miles (65 kilometers) when configured with a specialized antenna.

At least 16 were discovered by US forces in Iraq being used in remote detonation systems for IEDs (improvised explosive devices), which, according to the indictment, caused roughly 60 percent of American combat casualties in Iraq between 2001 and 2007.

"Yesterday, authorities in Singapore arrested Wong Yuh Lan (Wong), Lim Yong Nam (Nam), Lim Kow Seng (Seng), and Hia Soo Gan Benson (Hia), all citizens of Singapore, in connection with a US request for extradition," the Justice Department said.

"The remaining individual defendant, Hossein Larijani, is a citizen and resident of Iran who remains at large."

Charges include conspiracy to defraud the United States, smuggling, illegal export of goods from the United States to Iran, illegal export of defense articles from the United States, false statements and obstruction of justice.

Some of the defendants were also charged in a separate fraud conspiracy involving the export of sensitive military technology to Singapore and Hong Kong -- radio antennas for use in fighter jets.

US Attorney Ronald Machen said the defendants misled US companies into exporting parts that ended up in IEDs on the battlefield in Iraq. "We hope for a swift response from Singapore to our request for extradition," he added.

"In each transaction, the defendants allegedly told the Minnesota firm that Singapore was the final destination of the goods," the indictment said. "The defendants also caused false documents to be filed with the US government, in which they claimed that a telecommunications project in Singapore was the final end-use for the modules.

"In reality, each of the five shipments was routed from Singapore to Iran via air cargo. The alleged recipient of all 6,000 modules in Iran was Larijani, who had directed Wong, his employee in Singapore, to order them."

Assistant Attorney General for National Security Lisa Monaco said the case "underscores the continuing threat posed by Iranian procurement networks seeking to obtain US technology through fraud and the importance of safeguarding that technology."

US officials regularly accuse Iran of meddling in the politics of Baghdad's Shiite-led government, and training and backing militant groups that target US troops in the south of Iraq.

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Admiral Mike Mullen, then the top US military officer, said in July that Iran was stepping up its support for Shiite militants in Iraq, supplying them with more sophisticated weapons that were being used against American forces.

Analysts have voiced concern that Tehran's ability to interfere could increase as a result of President Barack Obama's announcement last week that all US troops will be pulled out of Iraq by the end of this year.

"These cases are the product of vigorous, cooperative law enforcement focused on denying to Iran items that endanger our coalition forces on the battlefield in Iraq," said Under Secretary of Commerce Eric Hirschhorn.

"We will continue aggressively to go after such perpetrators -- no matter where they operate -- to guard against these types of threats."

US Ambassador to Singapore, David Adelman, praised the cooperation of different departments both within the United States and with the Singaporean authorities.

"Twenty-first century law enforcement is most effective when countries work collaboratively as evidenced by this strong, cooperative effort between the US and Singapore," he said.

The Singapore embassy in Washington declined comment on the matter.

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32. [Attack: Kenya] **Explosions Leave One Dead, 20 Injured After Warning By Us Embassy**
(Bloomberg)

Tuesday, 25 October 2011

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-24/kenyan-explosions-leave-one-dead-20-injured-after-warning-by-u-s-embassy.html>

At least one person died after two bomb blasts in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, where police stepped up security after the U.S. Embassy warned the country faced an imminent attack as Kenya's army continues an assault on Somalia.

An explosion at a bus station in the city centre at around 8 p.m. yesterday killed one person and left at least eight others wounded, Nelly Muluka, a spokeswoman for the Kenya Red Cross said in a phone interview from Nairobi. Earlier yesterday, a further 12 people were injured when a grenade was thrown into a bar in the downtown area, police spokesman Charles Owino said in a separate phone interview.

Police suspect that a hand grenade was also used in the second attack, Njoroge Ndirangu, provincial commissioner of Nairobi, said in an interview broadcast by Citizen TV.

Kenyan soldiers entered neighboring Somalia last week to combat al-Shabaab, the al-Qaeda-linked rebel group the government blames for kidnapping tourists and aid workers in Kenya. Al-Shabaab vowed to retaliate against what it has called the "invading forces." The U.S. Embassy in Nairobi said on Oct. 22 it received "credible information of an imminent threat of terrorist attacks" at sites in Kenya frequented by foreigners.

The blast at the bar was caused by a Russian-made F1 grenade, Kenyan Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere told reporters yesterday in Nairobi. Al-Shabaab hasn't been linked to the attack and an investigation is continuing, he said.

Kenya is planning an operation "soon" that will target al-Shabaab sympathizers in Kenya who are raising funds for the militia, the Standard newspaper reported today, citing Iteere.

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33. [Attack: Thailand] **Series Of Bomb Blast May Not Be Over** (The Nation)

Thursday, 27 October 2011

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/Series-of-bomb-blast-may-not-be-over-30168666.html>

Authorities are still combing through various pockets in the city of Yala on Thursday following a spate of bombing incident that rocked this southernmost provinces just two days earlier.

According to memos circulating by security and intelligence agencies, the seventh anniversary of the Tak Bai massacre was greeted with a total of 37 violent and potential violent incidents in the three southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and the Malay-speaking region of Songkhla, according to official reports.

Out of the 37 incidents, 29 was in the city of Yala alone. Of the 29 incidents in Yala, 24 were bombings. Authorities were able to defused four bombs. A police outpost on the outskirts of the town was hit by two M79 grenades fired by suspected insurgents.

There were two civilian death, while two suspected insurgents were killed by a bomb they were transporting through Yala's Old Market. Authorities believe they were heading to the other side where most of the bombs had been placed.

Eyewitnesses said the explosive ripped through their motorbikes and bodies of the two suspected militants beyond recognition, tossing their bombs as far as 30 metres away from the scene where the bomb went off.

The seventh Tak Bai anniversary came on Tuesday. The incident took place in Narathiwat at at the border district which the massacre was named after. It ended in the lives of 86 unarmed Malay-Muslim demonstrators who were calling for the release of five people who they believed had been wrongly arrested by the police.

Eight were shot dead at the scene of the protest while the rest died from suffocation after authorities stacked them one on top another on the back of military transport trucks.

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34. [Attack: Philippines] **Bomb Blast Outside A Restaurant Kills One In Southern Philippines**

(Deutsche Presse-Agentur)

Thursday, 27 October 2011

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1671481.php/Bomb-blast-kills-one-in-southern-Philippines

A homemade bomb exploded outside a restaurant in the southern Philippines, killing one person and injuring six, police said Thursday.

The blast, which occurred late Wednesday in Zamboanga City, 875 kilometres south of Manila, has further increased tensions in the southern region following fighting between government troops and Muslim separatist rebels.

More than 50 people have been killed and nearly 20,000 residents displaced since the fighting broke out last week in the nearby provinces of Basilan and Zamboanga Sibugay.

Chief Superintendent Elpidio De Asis, a police regional director, said the bomb explosion occurred outside a restaurant in Zamboanga City while police were detonating another bomb found in a nearby lottery outlet. Investigators have yet to identify suspects or a motive for the bombing, which occurred just hours after soldiers overran the camp of Muslim rebels they clashed with in Zamboanga Sibugay.

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35. [Attack: Kenya] **Police Blow Up Car In City Bomb Scare** (All Africa)
Wednesday, 26 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110270152.html>

Police on Wednesday blew up a car abandoned by the roadside that was thought to have been rigged up with explosives.

An unidentified person, who had parked it at the busy Masimba matatu terminus in Kayole, had claimed it would explode and "kill many people."

Officers from the police bomb disposal unit first examined the car with the help of sniffer dogs and after failing to detect any explosives, used their own devices to force the boot open.

The explosion ripped the boot as hundreds of residents scampered for safety.

The scene is near the house where 13 grenades were found after police raided a house and arrested its owner on Tuesday evening.

One of the experts who wired the explosive, and detonated it while 100 metres away was wearing bomb kit; heavy clothing that included a helmet.

The police action ended four hours of anxiety, during which the area had been cleared as terrified residents watched from a distance.

The car, a cream Nissan Sunny, was abandoned there at noon and its wreckage towed away at 4.30pm.

Officers from Kayole Police Station had cleared the busy terminus, cordoned off an area of about 200 metres on either side of the car for four hours until bomb experts arrived.

Kayole police boss Moses Lubisia said the owner of the vehicle - KAC 256D - had been identified.

Mr Lubisia added the man would be charged with various offences, because "he had given false information, causing anxiety, panic and fear".

After parking the car, the man had flagged down a matatu and hopped in.

When he claimed the car would explode, Mr Lubisia told the Nation, he was loud enough and many people heard him.

Inside the vehicle, police found two 20-litre plastic containers and rugged paper bags.

Meanwhile a security cordon has been thrown around the country as the government moves to thwart possible terrorist attacks by Al-Shabaab.

Security patrols were enhanced in various parts of the country yesterday especially in government offices, public places and major highways in the wake of two grenade attacks in Nairobi that left a man dead and dozens injured on Monday.

The threats assumed more significance yesterday after police were forced to blow up a car that had been abandoned by a man who claimed that it was laden with explosives and would kill "many people."

The incident occurred in Kayole estate, Nairobi, a day after a man was arrested with 13 grenades.

A spot check by the Nation established that owners of shops, hotels, restaurants, bars and public transport vehicles in Nairobi had hired security officers armed with metal detectors to screen patrons and passengers before admitting them into their premises or vehicles.

At the Holy Family Basilica, the Nation found security officers at the entrance to the main church hall screening worshippers going for evening prayers.

"This is the first time we have brought in security officers to screen worshippers because we are alive to the threat posed by terrorists. We have however not noticed a drop in the number of worshippers," Father Calistus Oduor said.

Nairobi's two main public transport companies, Citi Hoppa and Double M said they had hired security guards to screen passengers before boarding their vehicles.

Drop in passengers

They reported a dramatic drop in the number of passengers since the Al-Shabaab warned of retaliatory attacks in Kenya.

"Since last week, there has been a significant drop in the number of passengers using our buses, especially at night. Most commuters are now leaving town as early as 2pm," Double M inspector Job Nato said.

Similar measures were put in place by Citi Hoppa.

"We were forced to buy these detectors after we noticed a sharp drop in the number of passengers who were using our buses since last week. Passengers want to know their security is guaranteed," an inspector with the bus company, Ms Beatrice Nyambura, said.

Even with increased police surveillance, police commissioner Mathew Iteere said the alerts should be maintained.

CID director Ndegwa Muhoro said Kenyans should avoid visiting "non-essential public places."

Police further appealed to wananchi to report anything suspicious, such as abandoned luggage.

Mr Muhoro said that on many occasions, information on "suspicious characters or items" was not true but added, "it's better to be safe than sorry."

At the Coast, Mr Iteere said there were more than 2,000 hotels and resorts frequented by tourists and all had been clustered and teams of police officers assigned to them.

He said police had visited businesses in the central business district and advised traders on how to ensure safety for their clients.

A spot check by the Nation revealed extra security measures in places that Kenyans would otherwise walk in and out without being bothered.

In Coast, the Provincial Administration announced that no security officer would be allowed to go on leave in the wake of the security threat.

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Regional Commissioner in charge of southern area Nelson Marwa said adequate personnel, both in uniform and plainclothes, had secured all critical government installations and other public sites.

At Bima Towers and the NSSF buildings where most government offices are located, security officers were given strict instructions to screen anybody entering the buildings and detain for further questions any suspicious persons.

Mr Marwa said police had also been posted to all parts of the region to strengthen the security situation.

At Kibera law courts in Nairobi, the courtrooms, which are usually full, were almost empty as only those who had cases scheduled for hearing were allowed in.

At Busia border point, police were ordered to search all vehicles and screen people to guard against possible entry of weapons into the country.

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36. [Attack: India] **7 Injured In Manipur Blasts, Bomb Exploded In Thangal Market Near Bank** (PTI)
Thursday, 27 October 2011
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article2573330.ece>

Seven persons were injured in two successive bomb blasts in the Thangal market complex here, police said on Thursday.

While the first bomb exploded near a branch of the Indian Overseas Bank at about 9 pm, the second one in Milan Enterprises area about ten minutes later yesterday.

The injured were identified as Md Faruk Khan (23), Manish Sakwat (15), Manisha (12), Md Mukta (16), Ms Sultanath (20), Nitish Agarwal (30) and Kusum Agarwal (26).

The injured were taken to nearby hospitals where their condition was stated to be out of danger.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the blast.

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37. [Attack: India] **Bomb Blast On Railway Track In Assam** (PTI)

Wednesday, 27 October 2011

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article2573237.ece>

A bomb exploded on the railway tracks in central Assam's Dima Hasao district on Wednesday night, damaging the track and halting the movement of trains.

There was no casualty or injury as no train was passing at the time of the blast, said Northeast Frontier Railway (NEF) Spokesman S. Hajong.

The bomb exploded on the tracks between Mahur and Phiding railway stations at around 11 p.m., Mr. Hajong said.

No train was scheduled to pass over the track at the time of the explosion, he said.

A part of the track was damaged by the bomb blast, he said. The up Barak Valley Express was detained at lower Haflong and its corresponding down 15693 at Maibong.

Senior railway and police officials had rushed to the blast site, the NEF Railway spokesman added.

Those responsible for the blast were yet to be identified as investigations were on, police sources said.

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38. [Attack: Tibet] **Chinese Government Building Hit By Blast** (Reuters)

Thursday, 27 October 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/28/us-china-tibet-idUSTRE79R0DU20111028>

A Chinese government building in a remote part of tense Tibet was hit by an explosion, leaving no injuries but adding to tensions after a string of self-immolation protests, an overseas radio service said late Thursday.

Radio Free Asia, based in Washington, said a bomb blast struck a township government building Wednesday in Changdu, Tibet.

"In the early dawn hours of October 26, there was an explosion in a local government building," the radio service said on its website, citing an unnamed member of the Tibetan exile parliament, which is based in India. It said he spoke on condition of anonymity.

"No casualties were reported," he said, according to the report. "This could be because no one stays in the building overnight. Walls of the building had also been painted with slogans in red calling for independence for Tibet, and leaflets had been scattered in the area."

The area was now under heavy security it said.

Chinese state-run media carried no word of the reported incident. Repeated calls to government offices in Changdu -- called Chamdo by Tibetans -- went unanswered and a police officer there said he had not heard of any blast.

If confirmed, the incident could add to tensions in ethnic Tibetan areas, where many locals resent the presence of the Chinese government and its controls on their Tibetan Buddhist religion.

The People's Republic of China has ruled Tibet since Communist troops took control there in 1950 and Beijing says its policies have brought much needed development to the poor mountain region, as well as religious freedom.

Tibetan areas in Sichuan province, which neighbors the official Tibet Autonomous Region, have been unsettled by a string of self-immolation protests by Buddhist monks and a nun over past months.

In the latest such protest, a monk doused himself in fuel and set himself ablaze Tuesday, the tenth ethnic Tibetan this year to resort to the extreme form of protest, an overseas advocacy group said.

In March 2008, protests and deadly riots against the Chinese presence spread across Tibetan regions, triggering sometimes deadly confrontations with troops and police.

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who China condemns as a supporter of violent separatism for his homeland, last week led hundreds of maroon-robed monks, nuns and lay Tibetans in north India in prayer to mourn those who have burned themselves to death or been imprisoned.

The Dalai Lama denies advocating violence and insists he wants only real autonomy for his homeland, from which he fled in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

But the Chinese Foreign Ministry has said the Dalai Lama should take the blame for the burnings, and repeated Beijing's line that Tibetans are free to practice their Buddhist faith.

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39. [Trend] **IED Attacks Rise Worldwide** (MCT)

Thursday, 27 October 2011

<http://www.omantribune.com/index.php?page=news&id=104017&heading=Other%20Top%20Stories>

Attacks with homemade bombs are growing worldwide and pose an increasing threat to the United States, said the head of the Pentagon agency charged with combating makeshift bombs.

Attacks with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) outside Afghanistan and Iraq have more than doubled in the last three years, according to Pentagon data. From January to September, there were an average of 608 attacks per month in 99 countries. During that time, there were 367 homemade bomb attacks in the US.

“It’s cheap, effective and readily available,” said Army Lieutenant General Michael Barbero, director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organisation. “If we think it’s going to go away after Iraq and Afghanistan, we’re dreaming,” he said.

“It’s going to confront us operationally for decades and domestically. We need to come to grips with that. It’s an enduring threat.”

Their popularity among criminals, narcotics traffickers and terrorists continues to grow, aided by the spread online of bomb-making technology, Barbero said.

Tactics used against US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have migrated to places such as Somalia, he said. African peacekeepers recently have been targeted with sophisticated armor-piercing IEDs. Another growing concern is the use of readily available fertiliser as the key component for homemade explosives.

Barbero estimated that 80 per cent of improvised explosives in Afghanistan are made with fertilizer produced in neighbouring Pakistan. Those bombs cause 90 per cent of US casualties there.

Even as their popularity grows elsewhere, improvised explosive attacks have been at record-high levels in Afghanistan.

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